

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

Published Every Morning in the Year by
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY.

Publication Office:
734 FIFTEENTH STREET NORTHWEST.

Entered as second class matter, October 3, 1896, at
the post-office at Washington, D. C., under act
of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SCOTT C. BONE, Editor.

Telephone Main 2200. (Private Branch Exchange.)

Subscription Rates by Carrier or Mail.
Daily and Sunday.....30 cents per month
Daily and Sunday.....\$3.00 per year
Daily, without Sunday.....25 cents per month
Daily, without Sunday.....\$2.50 per year

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newspaper, whether by the daily or the
Sunday issue, should be addressed to
THE WASHINGTON HERALD.

New York Representative, SMITH-WILBERDING
Special Agent, Tribune Building.
Chicago Representative, CHARLES A. BARNARD,
Beverly Building.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1908.

The Newer View of the Tariff.

Senator Beveridge, in his speech of
Wednesday last, strongly presented the
case for a nonpartisan tariff commission
of experts to inquire into all the facts
bearing on the tariff which would prove
helpful to Congress in providing equitable
rates of duty upon the thousands of arti-
cles that annually pass through our
customs. Mr. Beveridge particularly
stressed the usefulness of such a
commission in arranging a scientific
classification of articles subject to duty,
a task for which the committees of
Congress are unfitted by lack of time and
want of expert familiarity with a com-
plicated matter. The classification of the
existing law is antiquated, out of date,
and so insufficient that it must be con-
stantly supplemented by decisions of ap-
praisers and the courts, at great expense
to litigants. The appraisers and the
courts, by fixing classifications, are leg-
islating every day, to quote Senator Be-
veridge, "just as much as Congress leg-
islates when it fixes the duties." In other
words, many duties on imports are de-
termined by the classification, which, in
turn, is a matter of administrative or
judicial interpretation. The confusion
and uncertainty thus introduced into the
tariff schedules is a serious drawback to
our foreign trade. As it would be man-
ifestly impossible for any committee of
Congress to master so technical and in-
tricate a subject within the limits of a sin-
gle session, it is one which may well be
committed to experts for study and re-
port.

The tariff-commission method of dealing
with the tariff, though highly successful
in Germany, and widely advocated in this
country by commercial and manufac-
turers' organizations, has so far found
little support in the press or among men
in public life. The standardpatters op-
pose it because it opens up the tariff ques-
tion, and probably also because they prefer the
present system of extending special
favours to particular industries to a sci-
entific and equitable adjustment of tariff
duties. Many tariff revisionists see in
the commission idea only another scheme
for the postponement of revision to some
indefinite period in the future, while
other critics predict that a commission
would merely befuddle the subject by
bringing in majority and minority reports
that nobody would pay attention to. We
do not believe Senator Beveridge ad-
vocates a tariff commission for any such
purpose as postponing tariff revision, and
he was careful to point out that a com-
mission would have nothing to do with
the theory upon which revision should be
undertaken, its duty being simply to as-
certain facts. Whether revision should
increase or diminish the average rate of
duties, whether it should preserve the
protective system, or should introduce a
revenue system with incidental protec-
tion, or whether it should be a hedge-
podge of both theories or a compromise
between conflicting interests and op-
inions, would be solely for Congress to de-
termine. We think Mr. Beveridge clearly
showed that a tariff commission would
have plenty to do without poaching on
the prerogatives of Congress.

Senator Beveridge stands for the new
point of view from which the tariff is
coming to be regarded by business men
and manufacturers, as well as by an in-
creasing number of voters of both par-
ties. The old stump speeches about a
protective tariff and a tariff for revenue
only, as he says, will be out of date in
the coming campaign. Hide-bound pro-
tectionists who decry foreign trade as an
injury to domestic industry and reformers
who would repeal all protective duties
are alike hopelessly behind the times.
Protection, in some degree or other, is
the settled policy of the country, but it is
being more and more recognized that a
protective policy that paralyzes the en-
ergies of our manufacturers and ham-
pers the expansion of our industries by
limiting their markets abroad, fits a
nation that boasts itself a world power.
A broader view must be taken of our
tariff policy; and as a manufacturer said
in an address at Cincinnati the other
day, "the change must come through a
sane and just consideration of all the
commercial, political, and moral questions
involved." This broader view has been
given practical exemplification in the
German agreement, and it is finding ex-
pression in the resolutions of commercial
bodies and manufacturers' associations all
over the land. The time is rapidly pass-
ing when a few powerful interests can
dictate the schedules of a tariff bill. When
the tariff is next revised, as we hope it
will be at the next session of Congress,
the revision should take into account the
whole commercial and industrial interest
of the nation and its relation to the
world's markets. Such a revision should
be equitable rather than radical, having
for its purpose the greatest good to the
greatest number, rather than special fa-
vors to the few or vindictive onslaught
on specific industries.

The Kansas City Journal thinks it
about time for the Republican party to
ask itself "whether we are drifting."
Evidently the Journal thinks there may
be snags ahead.

"A man in Marion, Ohio, received a
blow on the head, and was thereafter
unable to recognize his friends," notes
the Buffalo Express. A number of people
appear to get themselves in an equally
forgetful mood by borrowing money from
their friends.

The Atlanta Constitution is mad be-
cause the new "ins" down its way are
"swiping" a lot of platform planks here-
tofore in possession of the old "outs."

Doesn't the Constitution understand by
now that that is one of the most popular
political pastimes of the day?

A Wise Prince.

That royal pretender to the throne of
Portugal, a prince of the reigning house
whose title to the crown is by no means
without merit as those things go, does
well to notify his following that he will
seek to take no advantage of the present
critical state of affairs in the kingdom,
with the view to furthering his own
political interests in any manner.

The present is no time for that sort of
thing, and the man who claims to be
the real son of the house of Braganza,
entitled to wear the royal crown, must
be credited with great good sense, as well
as decency, in retiring quietly to his
Austrian apartment, there to remain in
obscurity until his unhappy land may
readjust itself to normal conditions. In-
deed, it is not to be doubted that his act
in this matter will greatly strengthen him
personally with those at home who may
be inclined to sympathize with him.

Whatever may be the general opinion
as to Carlos, his summary taking away,
together with the crown prince, who
could have been no party to any proba-
ble plot involving Portugal's future, the
world stands aghast at the spectacle.
Even the most caustic critic of the King
must, if he be a human being and not a
fiend, deplore the mad act that struck
him down. The world's heart goes out
to the boy King now on the throne. He
is but a lad, and in the face of a terrible
conflict, he stands alone. The outside nations
will stand, in feeling, at least, in hope that
all may go well with him.

The Leslie M. Shaw boom is still wait-
ing at the church.

Ridiculous Red Tape.

The Acting Secretary of War has ap-
pealed to Congress for a change in the law
which now requires his department to re-
duce all contracts to writing and exacts
the preparation of five copies of every
contract, one of which is sent to the
returns office of the Department of the
Interior. The making of a contract in-
volves a large amount of clerical work,
and in many cases it is not justified by
the transaction. This is not only a cum-
bersome method, so far as the War De-
partment administration is concerned,
but it imposes a veritable hardship upon
bidders who view such useless labor as
a trouble they ought not to be compelled
to take. It is considered that contracts
of a certain class may very well be in
less archaic form, and that fewer copies
should be made.

No one has ever been able to under-
stand for what purpose the so-called re-
turns office of the Department of the In-
terior exists. It is a relic of a bygone
age, and has survived simply because it is
useless enough to escape sufficient at-
tention to lead to its abolition. No one
ever goes to the returns office to consult
the huge volume of contract copies which
are filed there. Bidders and contractors
and others who want to look at such
records go to the bureau of the execu-
tive department where the contract was
awarded and get the information with-
out delay. Then, too, contracting officers
are required to make affidavits to the
effect that they are not peculiarly inter-
ested in the contract, and so on. The
notary fees attaching to this absurd func-
tion amount to more than \$1,000 a year
in the War Department alone. It is con-
sidered that a certificate to the same
effect would answer every purpose and
under the officer just as liable for ex-
action as if the certificate were in the form
of an affidavit.

There are many reforms necessary in
the whole contract business of the govern-
ment, and it would be well to have
established for the benefit of the country
and the business firms who have rela-
tions with it a system which has some
relation to commercial expedition. This
can be done without impeding any of
the security which is necessary on the
part of government representatives. The
changes would answer every purpose and
under the officer just as liable for ex-
action as if the certificate were in the form
of an affidavit.

The Arizona Republican calls Secretary
Taft "the second fiddle." He looks more
like the bass fiddle to us; but we are not
so far away from him as our contem-
porary is.

Defects of an Army Pay Table.

The Secretary of War published in his
annual report, and so gave official sanc-
tion to, a pay table which it was pro-
posed to adopt for the benefit of the
enlisted men of the army of all ratings
from private to the best paid noncom-
missioned staff officer, with additional pro-
vision for new warrant or petty officers
corresponding with such grades in the
naval establishment. No one appears to
have studied the table very carefully, ex-
cepting those, of course, who were con-
cerned in its preparation, and it came
very near being adopted by the House
Military Committee, from all accounts, as
a rate of pay which should be adopted
by Congress in extending relief to the
enlisted men of the army, who are paid
much less in the average than enlisted
men of the navy. It has been pointed
out that the average pay of the army
enlisted force is less than \$15, while the
average pay of the naval force is more
than \$25 per month. It has long been
appreciated by those who have given
any thought to the situation that some
adjustment should be made by Congress
to adjust the varied and inconsistent and
often times unjust differences which exist
between the military and naval services
in the matter of pay and allowances. The
President under the law has the right to
prescribe the pay of the naval enlisted
force, and despite the objection to that
effect in behalf of the army, Con-
gress is not selling that he should ex-
ercise the same privilege for the army.
This makes it impossible to adjust army
enlisted pay without an act of Congress
and the delays of enactment.

The difficulties which beset those who
undertake to furnish relief for the en-
listed force are indicated in this proposed
pay table sent to Congress by the Sec-
retary of War. In that table there were
eleven ratings where the proposed pay
would be a decrease in the pay now
received. In one case the monthly sacri-
fice would amount to \$9 on the first
enlistment and \$8 a month on the second
enlistment. This appears inexplicable un-
til it is shown that this simply adjusts
the pay of one class of noncommissioned
officers to correspond with the pay re-
ceived by another class of equal impor-
tance and value. When the attempt at
adjustment is made in this way, all sorts
of trouble is encountered. For instance,
certain men in the Artillery Corps under

the proposed table get as much as \$25
per cent increase, while others of corre-
sponding grades in the other branches
get but 6 per cent increase.

The service pay tables, whether of the
enlisted personnel or commissioned force,
are a veritable hodge-podge. They have
been created by haphazard legislation,
with provisions which have been con-
founded by interpretations of law, rulings,
and decisions from various sources. Con-
gress could do much to simplify the
situation, but the chances are that the
relief in that respect will be limited.
The increase of service pay is a project
which is pretty well muddled by pending
legislation which is conflicting and which
has now come to be involved in entirely
independent questions that may in the
end defeat the laudable purpose of in-
creasing the pay of officers and enlisted
men of the military and naval services.

"What has become of the old-fashioned
home?" asks a contemporary. Any old-
fashioned fellow could tell you, if willing
to bother with you.

Perhaps Senator Culberson desired to
get the Democratic campaign book con-
tained in the Congressional Record, so
he would have it where nobody would be
likely to notice it.

Now that Mr. Penrose is reported as
"warning up" to the Roosevelt policies,
Senator Platt must "feel like one who
treads alone some banquet hall de-
serted."

The Rochester Herald thinks "dictator-
ship a falling business." But it refers to
Portugal, not the United States.

Railsoull has a "system" that puts even
Tom Lawson's to blush.

Mr. John D. Rockefeller is to be in-
vited to meet the South Carolina legis-
lature. Is it the idea to show Mr. Rocke-
efeller that there can be even worse things
than a \$25,000,000 fine?

Texas and Tennessee are engaged in
deadly warfare as to which was the
birthplace of Martin W. Littleton. Mr.
Littleton may yet be forced to intervene
and make a choice of the two evils.

Rhode Island has increased its popula-
tion during the last five years nearly a
half million. Some people are going to
get scrouged out of that ballcock, if
they are not careful.

"Those Brownsville chickens are com-
ing home to roost, Mr. Roosevelt," says
the Hartford Times. Which appears to be
true enough, except that they are
blackbirds, not chickens.

Perhaps no man in the world has a
clearer idea of what it means to hit a
cannon slide than looking for it than the
late premier of Portugal.

Both winter and the thermometer ap-
pear to have taken a tumble to them-
selves.

Government by executive decree has
been abolished in Portugal, but not, un-
happily, until after the King and the
crown prince were previously abolished.

"Mr. Bryan is not to blame," says an
editorial headline in the Norfolk Land-
mark. And yet, if it were not for Mr.
Bryan to blame, the blame department
of a number of newspapers would have
to go entirely out of business.

Oh, fame, where is thy joy? Oh, reputa-
tion, where is thy victory? A contemporary
makes mention of one "Alfred Ber-
nard Shaw, the smart English author."

An ice man named Lemmon has been
imprisoned in Milwaukee. However, the
company will not need him before the
summer season sets in.

Another Georgia editor has migrated to
Gotham. It seems rather a hard matter
to make prolonged droughts and editors
both stay put in the Cracker State.

Ah, ha! We knew this Paragrapher's
Union foolishness was going to get us
into trouble! Here comes the Pittsburgh
Post already calling on us to diagram
our own late "perts." We hereby wash
our hands of the thing; the old time re-
ligion is good enough for us!

Where is "Pete," and what change
has come over the spirit of his dream?
Has he fallen on evil and mollycoddish
times?

Doubtless Breathitt County will breathe
easier now that Judge Hargis has been
permanently blue-penciled.

Speaking of panders, there is going to
be one right when the political fat-fryers
attempt to make good this year.

It may yet reach the point where we
shall be compelled to refer to him as
that "conservative" statesman, William
Randolph Hearst.

"A Philadelphia musical director bears
the appropriate name of Dr. Thunder,"
says the Montgomery Advertiser. We
suppose he affects the Wagnerian school
exclusively.

The Philippine legislature has ad-
journed, the North Carolina legislature
has adjourned, and the South Carolina
legislature is about to adjourn. Let the
good work go on.

The Diagnosis.

From Judge.
Old Mother Confidence lay gasping for
breath by the roadside.

"Ah, ha!" said the Liquor Dealer with
a savage leer. "Too much prohibition."

"No, not too much regulation,"
said the Railroad Man.

"Not enough adulteration," said the
Food Manufacturer.

"Not enough rebates and too many
fines," said the Trust Magnate.

"She ought to be protected by a bigger
navy," said the Admiral.

"Nothing the matter with her at all,"
said the Editor.

"Not enough laws," said the Politician.

"She needs a new President," said the
Partisan.

"Too much dope and rascality," said
the Common Person, who was growing in
wisdom as he grew in years.

Burning the Money.

From the New York Tribune.
Who says hard times are here? The
country has money to burn. Within forty-
eight hours Chicago had two fires, in-
volving losses of \$500,000 and more than
\$1,000,000. Indianapolis enjoyed one con-
flagration which licked up \$500,000, and
Kansas City treated herself to one of
like proportions, while a dozen smaller
towns did the rest of the work with their
limited means, leaving not a cent of the
\$5,000,000. A country that can go on a pyro-
maniacal spree like this and keep up the
pace week in, week out, certainly must
be immensely rich.

Woman's Endurance.

From the Atlantic Globe.
There never was a woman who did not
believe that her husband would have been
dead long ago had he suffered one-tenth
part of what she endures.

Gave It Free.

From the Rochester Herald.
It may have been noticed that Mark
Twain didn't charge 30 cents a word for
his opinion on bank receiverships.

Both Need Reforming.

From the Ohio State Journal.
Presidential messages are gradually be-
ing cut down to the length of mere
hypothetical questions.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

THE MAIN REQUIREMENT.

All the world adores a lover.
All the girl reporters have.
Round about.
Ream on ream of throbbing copy.
Oftentimes a little sloppy.
Grinding out.

All the world adores a lover;
Other heroes take to cover
At his tread.
But 'tis very, very vital
That his miss possess a title.
Be it said.

After His Own Heart.

A Wall street man dropped into a coun-
try school and was invited to examine a
class.

"How much are two and two?" he
asked the first boy up.

"I don't know."

"Who discovered America?"

"I don't remember."

"The teacher was about to offer excuses,
but the Wall street man waved him aside,
"That boy may not be much on frills,"
declared he, "but he's thoroughly practical,
and that's what counts in real life."

At the Concert.

"Mr. Jinks, we want you to decide a
bet."

"Happy to oblige, I'm sure."

"Was that last selection something classi-
cal, or was it the orchestra tuning up?"

"The sun," remarked the kindly citizen,
"shines for all."

"And that's what worries some people,"
averted the caustic citizen. "They seem
to think the sun ought to be handled as a
spotlight."

In School Days.

"Am I loved," she says.
"Such good pretty ways,"
Too.
He'd be a happy lad
If she would only add
"You."

Bostonsese.

"Barkeep, gimme a highball."

"A highball. Where you been tending
bar?"

"I'm just in from Boston," answered
the barkeeper, with a sheepish grin.
"They call 'em altitudinous spheroids
there."

This is a Bad One.

"New York is first Republican and
then Democratic, a chameleon State."

"Ah, yes. And can the chameleon
change its Hughes?"

Sweet Sorrow.

"I can't please my friends," sobbed the
young bride.

"What's the matter, pet?"

"They insist that I can't be happy with
a fathead like you; but, oh, husband,
I am!"

TAMPERING WITH TRIFLES.

From the Houston Post.
"Who are you looking
at?" asked she.
"You're very rude,
It seems to me,"
He looked at her.
Eyes full of rue,
And all he said
Was just, "A-choo!"

"A-choo! a-choo!"
He told the maid;
Then with an effort
He essayed
An explanation
To work through,
But it just ended
With, "A-choo!"

"How dare you!" then
The maiden cried,
"Look thus at me!"
"Please leave my side!"
Where is your heart at
That you do
So rude a thing?"
He said, "A-choo!"

With reddened nose
And trembling lip
He said, "Please notice
I've the grip."
"I would not harm
Nor frighten you,
I did not mean
To look—A-choo!"

"Does your wife make you explain all
your acts?"

"Worse than that."

"Worse than that?"

"Far worse; she doesn't permit me to
explain them."

The World's Fault.

"He has not so much confidence in his
ability as he had when he set out to
set the world on fire, has he?"

"Oh, yes; he has decided that the world
is too green to burn, that's all."

Jumping at a Conclusion.

"I have just swallowed a couple of af-
fairs that are these things that work while
you sleep?"

"Gas meters! Great Scott, you've never
swallowed a couple of those?"

Safe.

"Tis leap year," said the callow youth,
And eyed the maiden fair,
He eyed the peach bloom of her cheek
And eyed her Titian hair.

"Tis leap year, yes," the maid replied;
"Tis leap year, as you say,
But don't be frightened; if I leap
I'll leap the other way."

Of Course.

"He gives his wife money and advice
whenever she requires it."

"And I suppose she takes it?"

"Well, she takes the money."

From the Llanos (New) State Journal.
Mr. Bryan has become well-to-do, and
yet to charge him with mercenary
motives involves a complete misunder-
standing of his life and character. If
anything can be proved by the testimony
of a man's neighbors, let it be set down
that Mr. Bryan should be credited with
purity of life as well as personal charm;
that he is sincerely devoted to the inter-
ests of his country, and that few men are
more willing to give of their earnings to
public causes in which he feels an inter-
est. The failure of a community that
cheerfully and virtually unanimously
offers testimony to all of these things to
support Mr. Bryan for the Presidency is
another matter. It arises from a lack of
faith in the Democratic party and its
principles and a distrust of Mr. Bryan's
ability to accomplish anything with such
a following, rather than a lack of belief
in the sincerity of Mr. Bryan himself.

Oil and Champagne Reciprocity.

From the New York Commercial.
It now appears that, unless we had al-
lowed France to send its champagne to
this country cheaper, there would have
been a prohibitory tax on our oil. Well,
what's the odds? The oil men are about
the only ones who can afford champagne,
anyway.

Uncertain Proposition.

From the Philadelphia Press.
The Philadelphia Press makers have de-
cided that Taft and Bryan are to be the
candidates. Just the same, you can't
always tell who's got the button.

Complex Simplicity.

From the Detroit Free Press.
The simplified spelling board has issued
a new list of words that look like any-
thing but simple.

CAPITOL GOSSIP.

A well-preserved man for his age is
Representative Charles Russell Davis, of
Minnesota. Born in Pittsfield, Ill., fifty-
nine years ago, he has wandered through
life in an easy way,
not calculated to draw
one in looks.

His parents moved
to Leavenworth, Minn.,
while he was quite
young, and Mr. Davis
has been identified
with St. Peter, Minn.,
ever since. His edu-
cation was received in
the common schools,
St. Peter High School,
by private instruction,
and at St. Paul Busi-
ness College. Later
he studied law and
was admitted to the
bar in 1872. He was
county attorney of
Nicollet County for
ten years, city clerk
and city attorney of
St. Peter for eighteen
years. He served in the State legislature,
both in the house of representatives and
the senate.

Military life had its attractions for Mr.
Davis, and for four years he was captain
of Company I, Second Regiment, Minne-
sota National Guard. His first Congress
was the Fifty-eighth, and his constituents
have returned him to the Fifty-ninth and
Sixtieth.

His committee assignments are Insular
Affairs and Expenditures in the State De-
partment.

A number of Representatives were gath-
ered in the cloakroom discussing the
merits of the various Presidential candi-
dates and the respective chances of each.
The opinions advanced by each were so
diversified that no combination could be
settled upon.

Representative J. Adam Bede, the wit
of the House, chanced in. After listening
a while, he said:
"Boys, I'll tell you the best solution of
the question before this meeting. The
Republicans will nominate Roosevelt and
Bryan; the Democrats Bryan and Roose-
velt. We couldn't possibly lose either
way."

Justice Brewer says the justices of the
peace in the Western country have an
exalted idea as to the limits of their
jurisdiction, each believing himself as big
and as important as a justice of the Su-
preme Court.

There was a justice of the peace of a
county in Kansas, the border line of
which was part of the boundary line be-
tween Kansas and Missouri. The justice
owned a large farm on the edge of the
county. A farm hand and his son were
working in the field and the justice was
seated upon a rail fence running along
the State line, bossing the job.